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Subject: FW: Proposed rule change objection
Date: Friday, April 30, 2021 4:35:19 PM

From: waeni mutisya [mailto:waenimutisya@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2021 4:29 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK <SUPREME@COURTS.WA.GOV>
Subject: Proposed rule change objection

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Dear Supreme Court Honorable Justices,

I am a family law practitioner, WSBA #55742. I oppose the proposed amendment to CR 71. Prohibiting attorneys from withdrawing without judicial approval within 90 days of trial would sometimes force practitioners to continue serving a client who was not paying their bills. Not only could that have unfair and potentially devastating financial consequences for practitioners, but it could also affect client service if there is a disgruntled attorney forced to represent an unpaying client. I also expect that if this amendment were adopted, in order to avoid not getting paid, attorneys would in some cases require their clients to make very large advance fee deposits once a case got to close to the point of 90 days before trial. This could actually result in more withdrawals for clients who are not able to make those deposits.

Current Rule 71 already allows parties, including an attorney's own client, to object to a notice of intent to withdraw. If that occurs, court approval of the withdrawal is required. I believe this procedure provides protection for the rare instances in which an attorney should not be permitted to withdraw in a civil case. Also, an attorney could face sanctions/discipline from the WSBA under RPC 1.16 if they withdrew from a case inappropriately within 90 days of a trial date.

I respectfully request the court reject the proposed amendment to CR 71.

Kindest regards,

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